COVERAGE NAME : PLSA

COVERAGE AREA: COUNTY

COVERAGE DESCRIPTION:

The 'PLSA' layer is a polygon coverage depicting the township, range and sections contained in the Public Land Survey System grid for the State of California. Townships are roughly six miles square, and are numbered north and south from an established baseline. Likewise, ranges are numbered east and west from an established meridian. California uses three baseline/meridians, these being Humboldt, Mt. Diablo, and San Bernardino, abbreviated HB&M, MDB&M, and SBB&M. Township and range values are combined in the redefined item TOWN-RANGE to facilitate dissolve and dropline functions.

Many places in the State are not gridded into sections. Most of these cases involve Spanish and Mexican landgrant areas that were honored by the government of the United States when California became a State, and were subsequently excluded from the section survey process. Names of landgrants may be found under the item LANDGRANT. Other areas were not sectioned because of difficulties in surveying wetlands and mountainous terrain. These areas are identified in the item COMMENTS as 'wetlands' or 'not sectioned'.

The PLSA layer can be of help in defining position and scale on small-scale plots. It is of course irreplaceable if the user is locating other features by means of township/range/section identifiers. There is also a centroid (point) coverage available that is not in the library. This represents each section as a point and carries all the township/range/section info as well as X and Y coordinates.

VITAL STATISTICS:

Datum:	NAD 83
Projection:	Albers
Units:	Meters
1st Std. Parallel:	34 00 00 (34.0 degrees N)
2nd Std. Parallel:	40 30 00 (40.5 degrees N)
Longitude of Origin:	-120 00 00 (120.0 degrees W)
Latitude of Origin:	00 00 00 (0.0 degrees)
False Easting (X shift):	0
False Northing (Y shift):	-4,000,000
Source:	US Geological Survey
Source Media:	Magnetic tape (digital file); mylar maps
Source Projection:	Geographic (latitude/longitude)
Source Units:	Degrees minutes seconds
Source Scale:	1:100,000
Capture Method:	Scanned/digitized
Conversion Software:	ARC/INFO rev. 5.0.1
Data Structure:	Vector
ARC/INFO Coverage Type:	Polygon
ARC/INFO Precision:	Single
ARC/INFO Tolerances:	1 meter
Number of Features:	146,151
Layer Size:	74.904 MB
Data Updated:	November 1993 (Coding errors - 5 counties)

DATA DICTIONARY:

DATAFILE NAME: PLSA.PAT
RECORD LENGTH: 138

Non-standard POLYGON attribute fields:

COLUMN	ITEM NAME	WIDTH	OUTPUT	TYPE	N.DEC
17	SECTION	2	2	I	-
19	MERIDIAN	10	10	C	-
29	TOWNSHIP	5	5	C	-
34	RANGE	5	5	C	-
39	SOURCE	15	15	C	-
54	COMMENT	25	25	C	-
79	LANDGRANT	60	60	C	-
	** REDEFINED ITEMS **				
29	TOWN-RANGE	10	10	C	-

NOTE: Items common to all POLYGON coverages: AREA, PERIMETER, PLSA# and PLSA-ID are not described here.

SECTION: Section number (less than 36)

MERIDIAN: Name of the baseline and meridian

TOWNSHIP: Township number and ordinal direction (N = north, S = south)

RANGE: Range number and ordinal direction (E=east, W=west)

SOURCE: Unused at this time.

COMMENT: Description of the polygon if not a surveyed section or landgrant.

LANDGRANT: Name of the landgrant, if any.

TOWN-RANGE: Concatenation of Township followed by Range.

DATA QUALITY ASSESSMENT:

The following are subjective comments regarding this data.

The layer is as complete as the USGS 100K quad sheets. The PLSA coverage does not include 'projected' sections into landgrant, wetland, or unsectioned areas. The feature accuracy is good and attribute accuracy is very good. It also has all pertinent section information.